

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 149 446 A

(43) Application published 12 Jun 1985

(21) Application No 8425136

(22) Date of filing 4 Oct 1984

(30) Priority data

(31) 8326802

(32) 6 Oct 1983

(33) GB

(51) INT CL⁴
E04H 12/22 E04G 23/02

(52) Domestic classification
E1S 29

(56) Documents cited

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(58) Field of search
E1S

(54) Post support

(57) The support has a post-engaging portion 1 which is offset with regard to the ground-engaging portion 2. The support is used to repair a post whose base was originally embedded in concrete, and which has rotted or broken at or near ground-level. Portion 1 is placed against the post and portion 2 driven into the ground clear of the concrete.

Fig. 2.

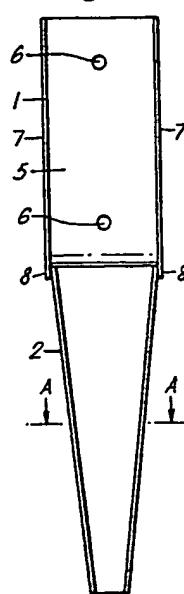
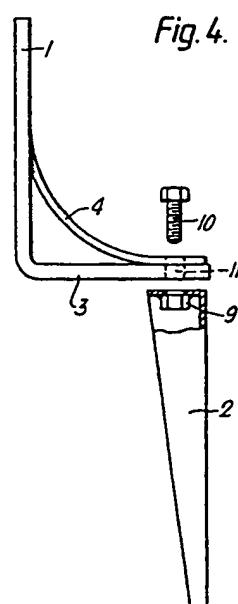


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



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Fig.1.

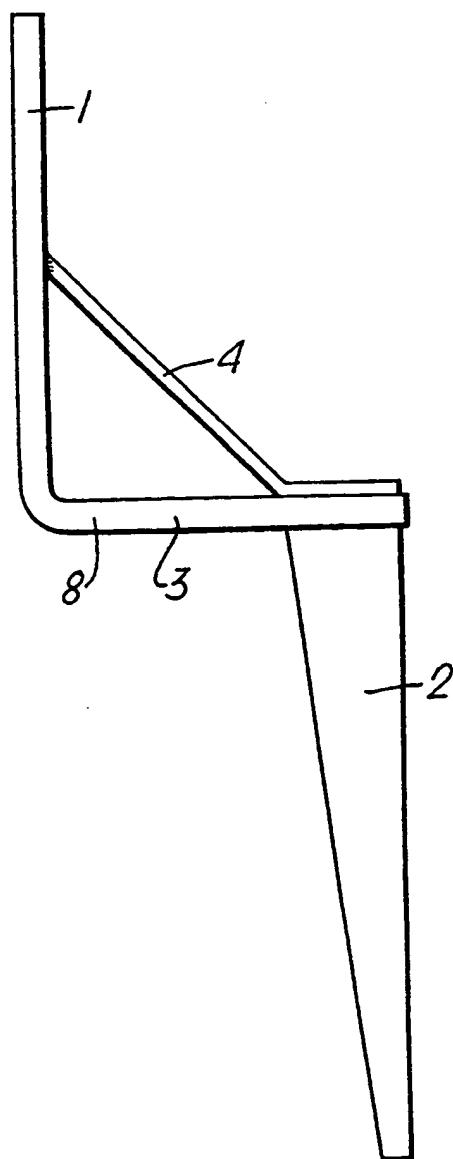


Fig.2.

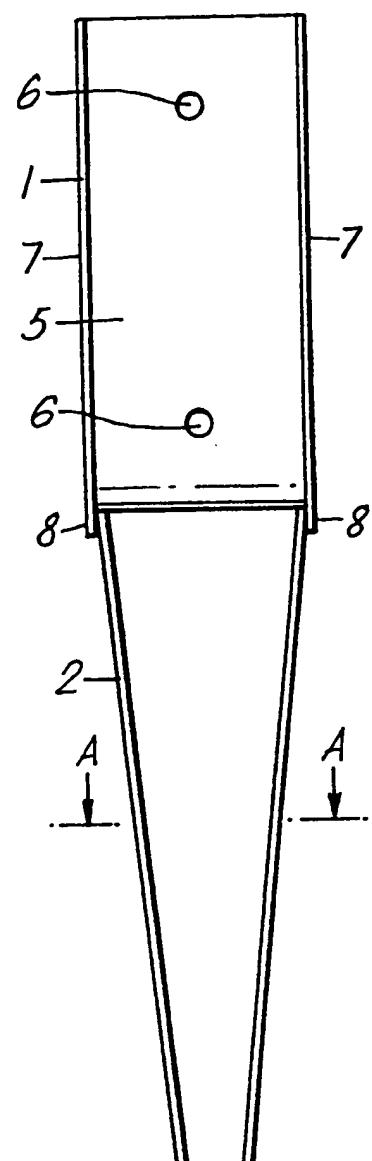


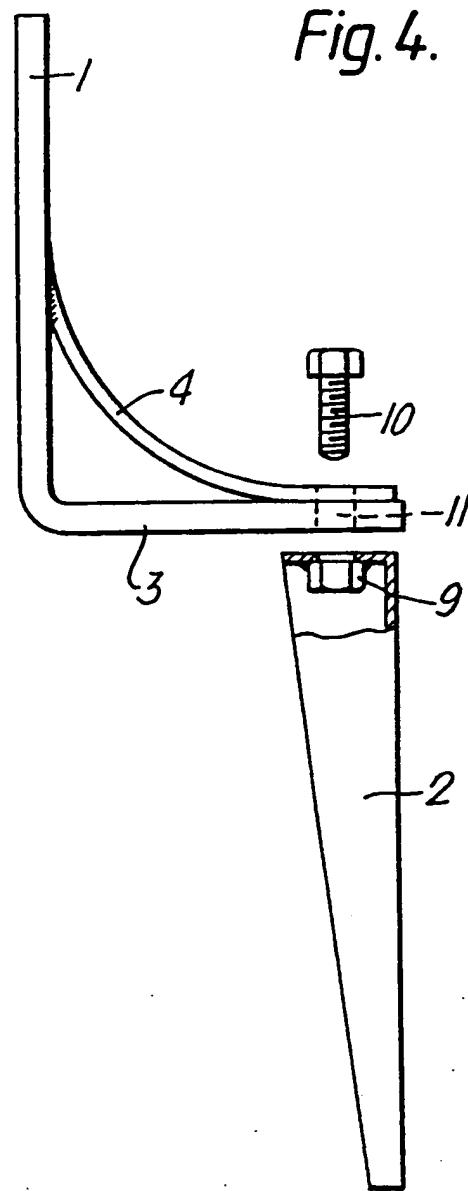
Fig.3.



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Fig. 4.



SPECIFICATION**Post support**

5 This invention relates to post supports.

Posts, such as wooden fence posts, are usually set in the ground with concrete. In time the base of the post tends to rot and the post break at or near ground level. Generally such broken posts are either dug out and 10 replaced or are repaired using a wooden or concrete spur which is concreted into the ground adjacent the broken post and secured to the broken post as by means of bolts or the like. Either way, the concrete around the base of the broken post has to be at least 15 partially removed and this can be a difficult and arduous task.

The present invention has as its object to provide a post support which will enable broken posts to be repaired without the necessity for removing concrete 20 from around the base of the broken post.

The present invention provides a post support comprising a post-engaging portion and a ground-engaging portion, the post-engaging portion being off-set with respect to the ground-engaging portion.

25 The post support preferably comprises an intermediate portion extending between and at substantially right-angles to the post-engaging portion and the ground-engaging portion. The intermediate portion may be of a length such that with the 30 post-engaging portion engaging a broken post the ground-engaging portion will engage the ground beyond any concrete around the base of the broken post. To this end the intermediate portion may be such as to space the post-engaging portion from the 35 ground-engaging portion by at least 150mm. If desired, post supports may be provided with intermediate portions of different lengths to suit different situations, e.g. with intermediate portions where-in the post-engaging portion is spaced from the 40 ground engaging portion by 150mm, 225mm or 300mm, or by such other distance as may be required in any particular instance.

The intermediate portion of the post support may be 45 of channel section with the side flanges thereof extending in the direction of the ground-engaging portion.

The post-engaging portion may be of channel section with the side flanges thereof extending outwardly away from the intermediate portion. The 50 channel section post-engaging portion is preferably of a size to receive a standard wooden post, e.g. a standard 75mm or 100mm square post. The post-engaging portion may be formed integrally with the intermediate portion. The post-engaging portion may 55 have apertures therein whereby it can be secured, e.g. screwed or bolted, to a post to be supported.

The post support may comprise bracing means extending between the post-engaging portion and the intermediate portion.

60 The ground-engaging portion may be formed integrally with the intermediate portion or may be welded or otherwise permanently secured thereto.

Alternatively, the ground-engaging portion may be formed as a separate part and may be attachable to the 65 intermediate portion as by screw bolt or other suitable attachment means. Forming the ground-engaging portion as a separate part which is attachable to the intermediate portion has the advantage that the post support is more convenient to package and transport.

70 The ground-engaging portion preferably comprises a spike which can be driven into the ground and which tapers inwardly towards its free end over at least a part of its length. The ground-engaging portion may be of channel, W or H cross-section, or of any other suitable 75 cross-section such as cruciform.

The present invention will be more particularly described with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a post support

80 according to the present invention,

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the post support of

Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a section on the line A-A of Figure 2, and

Figure 4 is a side elevation of a modified post

85 support according to the present invention.

Referring to Figures 1 to 3 of the drawings it will be seen that the post support illustrated therein comprises a post engaging portion 1 and a ground-engaging portion 2, the post-engaging portion 1 being offset 90 with respect to the ground-engaging portion 2. An intermediate portion 3 extends between and at substantially right angles to the post-engaging portion 1 and the ground-engaging portion 2. An optional brace 4 extends between the post-engaging portion 1 95 and the intermediate portion 3 and is secured thereto at its ends.

The post-engaging portion 1 is of channel section having a central web portion 5 having apertures 6 therein whereby it can be secured, e.g. screwed or 100 bolted, to a post and side flanges 7 which extend outwardly away from the intermediate portion 3. The spacing between the side flanges 7 is preferably such that the post-engaging portion 1 will receive and embrace a post of standard size, e.g. a standard 75mm 105 or 100mm square post, although it will be understood that a post-engaging portion 1 to receive posts of other sizes can be provided if desired.

The intermediate portion 3 is also of channel section with the side flanges 8 thereof extending downwardly 110 in the direction of the ground-engaging portion 2. The intermediate portion 3 may be formed integrally with the post-engaging portion 1.

The ground-engaging portion 2 is in the form of a spike which can be driven into the ground and which 115 tapers towards its free end as shown. In the illustrated embodiment the ground-engaging portion is also of channel section, although it will be understood that the ground-engaging portion can be of any other suitable cross-section such as W, H or cruciform 120 cross-section. In the embodiment of Figures 1 to 3 the ground-engaging portion is permanently secured, e.g. welded, to the intermediate portion 3.

In the embodiment of Figure 4, in which like parts have been given like reference numerals, the ground-

engaging portion 2 is formed as a separate part and is securable to the intermediate portion 3 as by means of a nut 9 and a bolt 10 which passes through aligned 11 in the intermediate portion 3 and the brace 4 makes 5 threaded engagement with the nut 9. The other end of the brace 4 may be secured, e.g. welded, to the post-engaging portion 1 or the brace 4 may be formed as a separate part and may be secured to the post-engaging portion 1 as by means of screw or bolt 10 means. The post support of the embodiment of Figure 4 has the advantage of being more convenient to package and/or transport.

The post support of the present invention may be formed from any suitable material, such as steel of a 15 suitable gauge, and may be galvanised or otherwise suitably treated to protect it against rust or corrosion.

The intermediate portion 3 should be of a length such that with the post-engaging portion 1 engaging a post the ground-engaging portion 2 can be driven into 20 the ground clear of any concrete around the base of the post. At the same time, the ground-engaging portion 2 should be as close to the post-engaging portion 1 as it practicable. For this reason it is preferred that post supports are provided with in- 25 termediate portions of different lengths so that a post support can be chosen which will enable ground-engaging portion 2 to be driven into the ground clear of any concrete around the base of a post whilst at the same time maintaining the minimum distance be- 30 tween the post-engaging portion 1 and the ground-engaging portion 2. Thus, for example, post supports may be provided wherein the post-engaging portion 1 is spaced from the ground-engaging portion 2 by distances of 150mm, 225mm and 300mm, or such 35 other spacings as may be desired or necessary.

In the use of the post support of the present invention, the post-engaging portion 1 is positioned against a broken post to be repaired and the ground-engaging portion 2 is driven into the ground clear of 40 any concrete around the base of the broken post. When the ground-engaging portion 2 has been fully driven into the ground the post-engaging portion 1 is secured to the broken post as by means of screws, bolts or the like. If necessary or desired, the intermediate portion 3 can be buried just below ground level so 45 as to conceal it from view.

It will thus be appreciated that the post support of the present invention provides a simple and inexpensive way of mending broken fence posts and the like 50 without the necessity of removing the broken post or any of the concrete around the base thereof.

CLAIMS

1. A post support comprising a post-engaging portion and a ground-engaging portion, the post-engaging portion being offset with respect to the ground-engaging portion.
2. A post support according to claim 1, comprising an intermediate portion extending between and at substantially right-angles to the post-engaging portion and the ground-engaging portion.
3. A post support according to claim 2, wherein the intermediate portion is of channel section with the side flanges thereof extending in the direction of the ground-engaging portion.
4. A post support according to claim 1, 2 or 3,

wherein the post-engaging portion is of channel section with the side flanges thereof extending outwardly away from the intermediate portion.

5. A post support according to claim 4 when 70 dependant upon claim 3, wherein the post-engaging portion is formed integrally with the intermediate portion.
6. A post support according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the post-engaging portion 75 has apertures therein whereby it can be screwed or bolted to a post to be supported.
7. A post support according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising bracing means extending between the post-engaging portion and the 80 intermediate portion.
8. A post support according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ground-engaging portion is formed as a separate part and is attachable to the intermediate portion by screw bolt or other 85 attachment means.
9. A post support according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the ground-engaging portion is formed integrally with the intermediate portion or is welded or otherwise permanently secured thereto.
- 90 10. A post support according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ground-engaging portion comprises a spike which can be driven into the ground and which tapers inwardly towards its free end over at least a part of its length.
- 95 11. A post support according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ground-engaging portion is of channel, W or H cross-section.
12. A post support substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 1 to 3 or Figure 4 of 100 the accompanying drawings.

Printed in the United Kingdom for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 8818935, 6/85, 18996. Published at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London WC2A 1AY, from which copies may be obtained.